

## City News wishes everyone a safe and happy 4th of July!!!

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Volume 12, Number 39

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WHITE SHEETS, BLUE SUITS AND BLACK ROBES

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## AFFIRMATIVE ACTION THREATENED

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## O.J. SPONSORS ANTI-VIOLENCE FUND-RAISER



BRENTWOOD, CA.—O.J. Simpson recently held a black-tie fund-raiser at his house for a special abuse foundation called "Stop the Violence—Increase the Peace." Obviously, this did not sit well with lawyers for the family of Nicole Brown Simpson, since O.J. was acquitted last October for killing Nicole and had pleaded "no contest" to beating her in 1989. The foundation said they welcomed the support.

Meanwhile, Variety, the nation's premier entertainment newspaper, reports that two lawyers in the O.J. Shapiro murder trial, defense lawyer Robert Chagnon and prosecutor Christopher Darden have become movie producers. Darden is a co-producer of the movie based on his best-selling book, "In Contempt." Simpson is executive producer of "Evil Empire," a story about the Russian Mafia. Although they were on opposite sides of the courtroom last year, both lawyers are now on the same team—Paramount Pictures.

## NEW JERSEY TO REDUCE BAC LIMIT

FLORHAM PARK—Lower blood alcohol limits will be in effect for the AAA New Jersey Automobile Club in spreading to its members. And in an unprecedented move, New Jersey is saying the same thing by reducing the .10 Blood Alcohol content (BAC) to .08.

"We're joining with Assemblywoman Loretta Weinberg, Mothers Against Drunk Driving-New Jersey (MADD), the New Jersey Traffic Officers Association and other groups in supporting a lower Blood Alcohol Content standard for the state's motorists," said Frederick L. Greal, president of the Florham Park-based Club.

"Setting the BAC limit at .08 (currently .10) will be a deterrent to driving after drinking. Crash statistics show that even heavy drinkers, who account for a high percentage of drunk driving arrests, are less likely to drink and drive because of the general deterrent effect of the .08 limit," said Greal.

"At the same time," he continued, "lowering the BAC limit to .08 will make it possible to convict seriously impaired drivers whose BAC limits are now considered marginal because they're at or just over .10."

See REDUCE BAC page 6

## HARLEM HIP HOP CONCERT ENDS IN STAMPEDE

by Terrence L. Dixon

The freestyle hip-hop concert in Harlem on Thursday, June 22, one of the many concerts on the plaza of the Harlem State Office Building on 125th Street—would have joined the others in receiving little or no coverage from the media had it not been for the riot of firecrackers and gunshots which resulted in a stampede. Twenty-six people were reported injured with minor scrapes and bruises.

The concert, spearheaded by New Jersey hip hop group the Fugees to increase voter registration and to get donations for Fugee member Lauryn Hill's *Hoodhook*—a summer camp for youth, progressed trouble-free for the duration of its performance.

See CONCERT STAMPEDE page 10

## Ford recalls over 7 million vehicles



## CITY NEWS

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## ARRIVE ALIVE IN THE FOURTH

Extra caution urged during the most dangerous holiday driving period

TRENTON—Celebrating the Fourth of July is one of the most enjoyable times of the year. Warm weather, barbecues, fireworks, and family gatherings all guarantee a fun-filled day for all. However, the long holiday weekend also means an increase in traffic on roads and highways.

The Tri-State Traffic Safety Partners, a coalition of traffic safety agencies from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), urges every driver to use

extra caution before putting the key into the ignition.

"July and August are the most dangerous times on the road, as the summer weather and longer daylight hours encourage more travel," says Thomas M. Louzon, Regional Administrator for NHTSA. "In the tri-state area alone, more than 14.5 billion vehicle miles will be driven during the two months beginning with the July 4th weekend."

Last year, during the holiday weekend, 17 people were killed and more

than 2,300 were injured in more than 3,500 crashes in the tri-state area. In northern and central New Jersey last July 4th, Essex County reported two traffic fatalities. Union County had four. Monmouth County three, and Passaic County recorded one death.

A recent study by the Tri-State Traffic Safety Partners shows that drunk driving continues to be the largest single contributor to traffic crashes with the level of drinking and driving increasing during the hot summer months.

"Throughout the year, alcohol is a factor in 45 percent of fatal crashes, but it rises to 56 percent over the July 4th weekend," says Col. Peter J. O'Hagan (USMCR, Ret.), Director of the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety.

"The holiday weekend can be safe and happy if a few simple precautions coupled with common sense are used," O'Hagan stated.

To ensure safety, he suggested:

• Always wear a seat belt, as it is the most effective lifesaving device available.

• Make sure children are secured in car seats.

• Get plenty of rest the night before and take frequent breaks during the trip, or share the driving with a rested passenger.

• If alcohol plays a part in a holiday

## Arthur Fletcher keynotes affirmative action seminar

by Avery Grant

ATLANTIC CITY—As the keynote speaker at the Affirmative Action Business seminar in Atlantic City, Arthur Fletcher, "Father of affirmative action" and former chairman of the United States Commission on Civil Rights, began his remarks by saying, "I am seeing myself all over again, through the young man sitting next to me. He said to me, 'You used to be our iceman.'"

"Let me tell you that I was a college-educated iceman because that's the only job I could get in Kansas, after finishing college in three years and doing a stint with the Los Angeles Rams and the Baltimore Colts professional football team."

The young man sitting next to Fletcher on the speakers' platform was Dr. Henry Johnson, founder and publisher of *City News*. Johnson who was born and raised in Kansas, whose father lived and died in the United States Army's 8th Cavalry.

Fletcher continued, "My brother and I were raised to believe that if we got an education and held on to it,

situations beyond our visions could allow us to use it and do things. So yes, I was a college-educated iceman who rose to become Assistant Secretary of Labor under President Nixon."

The Affirmative Action Business Seminar was jointly sponsored by the National Business League of New Jersey/Financial Consortium (NBL) and the State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) at Ball's Park Place Casino in Atlantic City. Howard T. Robinson, Abscon, is the NBL president and Dr. Elaine Harrington, Paterson, is the state NAACP president.

In her opening remarks, Dr. Elaine Harrington, state president NAACP said, "We must reaffirm our action towards people of all colors and creeds and that is all affirmative action. We must perpetuate the idea of fairness and fairness."

The seminar's theme, "Affirmative Action: Its History, Its Present Affirmative Action as an effective tool for economic development," was prompted by comments of President Clinton ("Mend it, don't end it") and Governor Whitman ("Affirmative ac-

tion as an effective tool for economic development").

The seminar consisted of three panels that addressed each facet of the theme, a working luncheon with New Jersey State Commissioner of Commerce Gualberto Medina as guest speaker and a specially prepared video of greetings and remarks from Governor Whitman, and an evening dinner where eleven Affirmative Action Trailblazers and Champions were honored.

Commerce Commissioner Medina, re-emphasizing the state's efforts said, "We have put together an affirmative action contracting program that is second to none. Let's call it 'Managed Justice' instead of affirmative action. We find it hard to understand why 'affirmative action' is good for big corporations and it is not good for people. It is good that this conference put together strategies that can help us make a bigger difference."

A report containing recommendations will be sent to President Clinton, Governor Whitman, and the political conventions, to assist in structuring policy for continuing affirmative ac-

See FLETCHER page 4

## Dr. Hall reports on the state of Newark's Schools

by Terrence L. Dixon

NEWARK—Dr. Beverly Hall, state district superintendent, gave a brief summary on June 25 at the Avon Avenue Boys and Girls Club about strategic plans to improve Newark's public schools and to point out the past year's accomplishments since the state take-over of the Board of Education.

"Compounding the problem is the sense of urgency I have about the lives of the 47,000 students in our schools and the clamoring from all sectors for a quick fix of an educationally bankrupt system that took decades to reach the bottom. We have to change a culture that existed to benefit adults to one that benefits children," Dr. Hall told the array of parents, administrators, and students in the briefing. Dr. Hall outlined six goals to be met by the year 2000 when Newark will be allowed to regain control of its school system.

Hall said the first goal was to improve teaching and learning in the classroom because these two compo-

nents "created an esprit de corps in many of the school buildings."

She noted that in the past year, the fourth grade showed a 5 percent increase in all areas on standardized test and the eighth grade showed a 5 percent and 4 percent increase respectively in language arts and mathematics.

The second goal was to evaluate and improve performance of all principals and vice-principals. "The road to improving student achievement begins with strong leadership at the school level," pointed out Dr. Hall. "It was clear that we could ill-afford to put another generation of illiterate students at the head of the parade, the state school-by-school reform was capable leadership in each school." Three independent assessments of each principal were performed and the final results will be available in two weeks.

The third goal was to ensure that all school buildings were clean and safe. Dr. Hall's plan calls for repairing bathrooms, providing adequate toilet tissue and running water, and making

security more effective in the schools.

The fourth goal was to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the central administration. Dr. Hall said that Newark spends more of its budget on administrative costs than direct educational services. There was a penalty of \$3 million dollars in the 1996-1997 budget given by the state for excessive administrative costs last year. Dr. Hall plans to locate administrative offices in the schools and redirect funds to educational instruction.

The fifth goal was to address the needs of students most at risk of dropping out of school. Dr. Hall said they will continue to work with professional learning organizations to provide tutorial services for those students who were failing.

The sixth goal was to get as many parents as possible involved. "We are serious about the leadership parents have earned and accepted through our hours of dedicated work," explained Dr. Hall citing an increase in parental involvement over the past

See NEWARK'S SCHOOLS page 10

## Mandatory jail term bill introduced for church arsonists

by Michael Burton

PATERSON—Assemblyman Alfred Steele (D-Paterson) recently introduced a bill in the New Jersey Assembly that will set mandatory prison terms for arsonists who target houses of worship.

Steele, who is also pastor of Seminary Baptist Church in Paterson, announced the introduction of the bill at a press conference held on June 14. Steele, along with other area Ministers and Rabbis announced their commitment to fight such acts of hate.

"Today we are gathered here to affirm our commitment to fight these acts of hate. We've called this show of solidarity to send a message to the purveyors of hate, stated Steele. "We hope these individuals know that an attack upon one church

is an attack upon all houses of worship," the Assemblyman reported.

Under the proposed bill, a convicted arsonist would receive a minimum prison term of 10 to 15 years without parole. Currently, the state has no laws that specifically punish church arsonists.

"This means a person who sets fires to a church could receive the same sentence as someone who torches an abandoned building," Steele explained.

Approximately 40 African American churches have been torched or bombed in the past three years. Many of the arsonists remain unidentified and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, responsible for the investigation, denies any link or conspiracy with the fires.

Dr. Elaine Harrington, President

of the New Jersey State Convention of the NAACP, stated that she questioned the dedication of law enforcement in apprehending those who were setting the fires.

"It's amazing that more concrete evidence has not been gathered and secured, in this nation, with the most sophisticated investigative methods and techniques in the world," stated Harrington.

"What's the delay in apprehending the perpetrators responsible for the rash of fires in the south?" she asked.

Church fires are still occurring in the south and has moved into the Midwest and the southwest with a church destroyed in Indianapolis on June 14 and another one in Louisiana just last week. Like the other blazes, authorities have few leads.



Affirmative Action Business Seminar participants (l to r) Howard T. Robinson, seminar co-chairman and Chairperson National Business League of New Jersey; Atlantic City Mayor James Whelan; Dr. Elaine Harrington, seminar co-chairperson and State NAACP President; and Arthur Fletcher, seminar keynote speaker, "Father of Affirmative Action" and former chairman of the United States Commission on Civil Rights.

## Clinton staff snubs black press

by Asika Muhammad



NPNA President Dorothy Leavel

HOUSTON, TEXAS—The President of the United States has awesome powers at his disposal. His office is in an obviously advantageous position for making his views known and for rallying support. It is referred to as the original "bully pulpit."

Imagine being told that the President is calling you, from Air Force One. Imagine being told you can lead a delegation to meet the President. That's pretty intoxicating stuff to contemplate, unless, that is, you're Dorothy R. Leavel, President of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA).

A few weeks ago, the NNPA held its 56th annual convention in Houston. During the NNPA meeting, President Clinton traveled to Houston to attend a fund-raiser. On the way into town, Clinton called Ms. Leavel from Air Force One. He wanted to explain why he could not attend the conference in person.

That would have been sufficient for the presidents of most black organizations with 200 dues-paying members. But NNPA is an association whose 200 members, communicate on their pages, with more than 12 million black readers each and every week. So, rather than simply take her board of directors to the President's hotel for a private session in that "pulpit" itself, Ms. Leavel insisted that President Clinton, meet with the entire membership, or with no one at all.

"I believe the President wanted to meet with us," Ms. Leavel reported to

the NNPA membership at the Merit Awards Dinner. But it seems, she said, that the Secret Service just had not checked-off on the meeting site, and there was no time left to arrange a security sweep of the convention hotel." In other words, The Secret Service told the boss, "No."

What really happened, is that the black press got snubbed! Black White House staffers had been working on getting the President to the meeting for weeks, particularly after it became clear that he and the black publishers would be in Houston at the same time.

"I'm sure the President was being honest with Ms. Leavel, when he told her he would like to attend the NNPA meeting. There has never been a President of the U.S. who is so comfortable in the company of large numbers of black people. But he was not well served by some members of his staff, who would have any information about the coincidence of the two meetings from getting to the President."

By the time he actually, personally knew about the meeting, and the potential embarrassment caused by his unavoidable "snub" of the black press, it was the day before his departure to Houston. With no options except "damage control" left at his disposal, the President cranked up a private meeting for the NNPA Board.

But Ms. Leavel, a plain-spoken woman who publishes the *Chicago* and *Gary Crusader* newspapers, would have none of it. No back-room meeting for her.

"I said to the President, 'I'm so glad we just happen to be in the same town. I'm so glad to talk to you on the telephone. Mr. President, thank you for your invitation for me and my friends and my board to come (meet privately with you). But Mr. President, my members need to see you.'"

Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) for Rep. Sherry Jackson Lee (D-TX) District 18th Congressional District of Texas, just as Yale Law School helped prepare Mr. Clinton for public service. Ms. Jackson Lee, who followed in the footsteps of Rep. Barbara Jordan and Mickey Landau, who preceded her in that district, cheered the NNPA leader in an address to the association.

"You know there are some of us

See BLACK PRESS page 10

# Black is Beautiful

From tightening those abs to coping with a bad hair day, *City News* is exploring what's new in black beauty and the issues confronting today's health-conscious individual in its "Black is Beautiful" special section published on July 31.

City News wants to know what its readers think about beauty? Fill out the survey and send it to: Beauty Survey, PO Box 1774, Plainfield, NJ 07060. The first 200 people to return this survey will receive a FREE "City News 100 Most Influential T-Shirt!" Remember, to choose the answer that is closest to your beauty choices.

1. What is your height and weight?
  - ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ inches
  - ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ pounds
2. How many hours do you spend a day grooming yourself?
  - ☐ 10 minutes
  - ☐ 30 minutes
  - ☐ 1 hour
  - ☐ 1 1/2 hours
  - ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you smoke?
  - ☐ No ☐ Yes
4. If you drink alcohol, how often?
  - ☐ Daily
  - ☐ Once a week/ party/ club
  - ☐ Special occasions only
5. How many times in the last year have you dieted/tried to lose weight in the last year?
  - ☐ Frequently
  - ☐ 1-2 times
  - ☐ 3-4 times
  - ☐ 5+ times
6. What type of exercising/sports do you play?
  - ☐ Weight Training
  - ☐ None
  - ☐ Swimming
  - ☐ Jogging
  - ☐ Walking
  - ☐ Tennis
  - ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
7. How often do you exercise?
  - ☐ Never
  - ☐ 2 times a month
  - ☐ 1-2 times/week
  - ☐ 3+ times/week
8. How long do you exercise?
  - ☐ 10-20 minutes
  - ☐ 30 minutes
  - ☐ 4+ minutes
9. Why do you exercise?
  - ☐ To stay in shape
  - ☐ To lose weight
  - ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
10. How much do you spend on beauty (hair, nails, etc.) per month?
  - ☐ \$10+
  - ☐ \$20+
  - ☐ \$50+
  - ☐ \$100+
  - ☐ \$200+
11. How often do you get your hair done per month?
  - ☐ 1 time
  - ☐ 2-3 times
  - ☐ 4+ times
12. How long are you usually at the hair dresser during one visit?
  - ☐ 30 minutes
  - ☐ 1 hour
  - ☐ 2 hours
  - ☐ 3 hours
  - ☐ 4+ hours
13. What chemical hair treatments do you use? (Check all that apply)
  - ☐ Relaxer
  - ☐ Color
  - ☐ Curly perm
  - ☐ Perm
  - ☐ Texturizer
  - ☐ None
14. Do you wear hair extensions or weaver?
  - ☐ Yes ☐ No
15. How often do you wear braids?
  - ☐ Never
  - ☐ Mostly
  - ☐ Sometimes
  - ☐ Always
16. Do you wear nail tips or wraps?
  - ☐ Yes ☐ No
17. Do you have acne, blackhead problems?
  - ☐ Yes ☐ No
18. Do you suffer from razor bumps?
  - ☐ Yes ☐ No
19. Do you use a bleach or skin tone cream?
  - ☐ Yes ☐ No
20. Do you use acne medicine?
  - ☐ Yes ☐ No
21. Have you ever visited a dermatologist?
  - ☐ Yes ☐ No
22. What type of make-up do you wear? (check all that apply)
  - ☐ None
  - ☐ Lipstick
  - ☐ Lip gloss
  - ☐ Eye make-up
  - ☐ Blush
  - ☐ Foundation
  - ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
23. When do you wear make-up?
  - ☐ Special occasions only
  - ☐ dinner party/Christmas/church
  - ☐ Everyday
  - ☐ Weekends/Clubbing/Parties
24. Do you have health insurance?
  - ☐ Yes ☐ No
25. Are you a vegetarian?
  - ☐ Yes ☐ No
26. How many times a month do you dine out?
  - ☐ 1-2 times
  - ☐ 3-4 times
  - ☐ 5+ times
27. How many times a month do you eat fast food?
  - ☐ 1-2 times
  - ☐ 3-4 times
  - ☐ 5+ times
28. How many meals per day do you eat?
  - ☐ No breakfast
  - ☐ Three square meals
  - ☐ Lunch & Dinner only
  - ☐ Snack often
  - ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
29. Do you take vitamins/power boosters (i.e. Ginseng Extract)?
  - ☐ Yes ☐ No
30. How many hours of television do you watch a day?
  - ☐ 1 hour
  - ☐ 2-3 hours
  - ☐ 4+ hours
31. How many jobs do you have?
  - ☐ 1
  - ☐ 2
  - ☐ 3
  - ☐ None
32. Is your job stressful?
  - ☐ Yes ☐ No
33. How often do you see a psychiatrist/other therapist?
  - ☐ Never
  - ☐ Sometimes
  - ☐ Often
34. Where do you go to meet a mate?
  - ☐ Club/Private Party
  - ☐ Bar
  - ☐ Church
  - ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
35. How often have you gone on a date in the last month?
  - ☐ 1-2 times
  - ☐ 3-4 times
  - ☐ 4-5 times
  - ☐ 7+ times
36. How often do you have sex per month?
  - ☐ Abstinence
  - ☐ 1 time
  - ☐ 5 times
  - ☐ 10+ times
37. Do you use birth control (other than condoms)?
  - ☐ Yes ☐ No
38. Do you use condoms?
  - ☐ Always
  - ☐ Mostly
  - ☐ Sometimes
  - ☐ Never
39. Sex
  - ☐ Male ☐ Female
40. Age
  - ☐ 16-19 years
  - ☐ 20-23 years
  - ☐ 24-30 years
  - ☐ 31-40 years
  - ☐ 41-50 years
  - ☐ 51-60 years
  - ☐ 61+ years
41. How much do you make a year?
  - ☐ \$10,000+
  - ☐ \$20,000+
  - ☐ \$30,000+
  - ☐ \$40,000+
  - ☐ \$50,000+
  - ☐ \$60,000+
42. Would you like to know more about health issues that pertain to African Americans?
  - ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for answering this survey. Please allow 4-6 weeks for your T-shirt to arrive. And, don't miss the "Black is Beautiful" special issue on July 31.

## '96 Miss Collegiate African American crowned

NEW YORK—June was Black College Month in Los Angeles. Homecoming queens from 48 Historically Black Colleges and Universities and "step-dancers" from eight other campuses were in town to tape the nationally-broadcast 10th annual Pro-Line Miss Collegiate African American Pageant (MCAAP) and the 4th Annual S.T.O.M.P.: Step Out Championship.

The specials were produced by African Heritage Network (AHN) and taped at NBC Studio in Burbank, CA, June 22 and 25, respectively. Both shows will air nationally each month from August to November.

Now in its seventh year of television syndication, MCAAP is a two-hour televised pageant highlighting African-American female college students. The broadcast emphasizes scholastic achievement, leadership, creativity and poise. MCAAP is the first and only nationally televised pageant to eliminate the bathing suit competition.

The "Step Out Championship" is a one-hour special celebrating the black collegiate tradition of competitive dance among fraternities and sororities. Stepping can be traced to the intricate foot dancing of ancient Africa.

It made its way to the United States as part of the great African Diaspora and appeared on black college campuses as a fraternity and sorority ritual by the turn of the century.

Today, as one of the hottest dance crazes, "stepping" is featured in music videos and can be seen on college campuses everywhere. Additionally, over 700 steppers will be featured at the opening ceremony of the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta.



The Queen and her Court. Bradford (2nd from r) was congratulated by runners up 1st runner up Pauline M. Ngalande, (l) Miss Benedict College; 2nd runner up Cynthia Thompson, (2nd from l) Miss Chicago State University; and 3rd runner up Angela S. Carroll, Miss Tennessee State University.

Photo by Jessica M. Cole

### Bartolome named outstanding student teacher



The 1996 Miss Collegiate African-American Pageant was hosted by celebrity stars Jasmine Guy and Kristoff St. John.

Photo by Jessica M. Cole

Have a  
safe 4th of  
July. Do  
not drink  
and drive!!

### JCSC honors nursing students



JERSEY CITY—Seniors (from left) Mary Carol El Maouf and Maria Baptiste both of Montclair, and Althea Archer of Irvington were among the Jersey City State College students who were honored at a recent cap and gown ceremony and pinning ceremony for nursing students. El Maouf, who received a certificate of recognition from the United States Air Force, Baptiste, who received the Nursing Process Award of the JCSC Department of Nursing and Archer, who received a certificate of recognition from the Army Nurse Corps, were congratulated by Dr. Ellen Gardner of Irvington, chair of the JCSC Department of Nursing.



The beautiful, Christi D. Bradford, Miss Fayetteville State University and newly crowned 1996 Miss Collegiate African-American Pageant (MCAAP) winner, wants everyone to know that "God does answer prayers."

Photo by Jessica M. Cole



The 1996 Miss S.T.O.M.P. champion Phi Beta Sigma of Clark Atlanta University, are joined by the show's "hostesses and former Miss Collegiate African-American Queen (1995) Adrienne-Joi Johnson (r) and L.L. COOL J. (in Fla. gear), Judges Norman Nelson (l), Evander Holyfield (4th from r) and Roy Brannon (r) VP Marketing for Pro-Line Hair Products.

Photo by Jessica M. Cole

We are praying for you Connie.  
We here at City News and your  
readers miss you.  
Get well soon!!



## Community Calendar

### THURSDAY, JULY 4

PLAINFIELD—The Festival Association of Plainfield, Inc. announces its upcoming "3rd Annual International Food and Merchandise Festival and 4th of July Celebration." For more info call 908-785-0773.

ARLINGTON, VA—Freedom Park opens. The park will feature icons from around the world that symbolize historic moments in the pursuit of freedom. For more info call 703-284-3507.

### FRIDAY, JULY 5

SOUTH ORANGE—Deadline for entries in the Gallery of South Orange annual outdoor art exhibit to be held on September 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Meadowland Park Duck Pond. For more info call 201-378-7754.

### THRU JULY 7

NEWARK—International Arts Festival will be held at Boys and Girls High School Field 10 a.m. to midnight (rain or shine). For more info call 718-636-6700.

### SUNDAY, JULY 7

NEWARK—The City of Newark's "Marching 100" Spirit of Newark Drum and Bugles Corps "will strut its stuff at the 'Fifth Annual Drum & Bugle Division 'Two Competitions' at 3 p.m. at Newark Untermyer Field. For more info call 908-233-1233 or 201-733-5357.

### JULY 8 THRU 12

EAST ORANGE—The City of East Orange Division of Senior Citizens sponsored tour of Quebec and Montreal. For more info call 201-266-6833.

### JULY 8 THRU 25

JERSEY CITY—Jersey City State College will offer its 27th annual Cinema Institute, a summer seminar on the development of film, from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. For more info call 201-200-2120.

### JULY 9 THRU 30

EAST ORANGE—The East Orange Farmers Market offers Jersey Fresh vegetables from the Garden State at City Hall Plaza Village from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Tuesday. For more info call 201-286-0938.

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 10

NEWARK—The 22nd Annual Newark

Black Film Festival continues with Once Upon A Time... When We Were Colored at 7 p.m. at Newark Symphony Hall. For more info call 201-596-6550.

### FRIDAY, JULY 12

JACKSON—The Second Annual "Celebrity Day" fund-raiser at Six Flags Great Escape to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. For more info call 908-351-1608.

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 17

NEWARK—Newark Black Film Festival continues with Harlem Diary and Adam Clayton Powell at 6 p.m. at the Newark Museum. For more info call 201-596-6550.

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

NEWARK—Newark Black Film Festival continues with A Great Day in Harlem at 7 p.m. at New Jersey Institute of Technology. For more info call 201-596-6550.

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 31

NEWARK—Newark Black Film Festival continues with The Manby the Shore at 7 p.m. at New Jersey Institute of Technology. For more info call 201-596-6550.

### THRU AUGUST 4

NEW YORK CITY—"Picturing Paradise: Colonial Photography of Saratoga, 1875-1925" exhibition investigating the growth of the concept of an island "paradise" through early photographs of Saratoga and its people at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. For more info call 212-535-7710.

### AUGUST 6 THRU 27

EAST ORANGE—The East Orange Farmers Market offers Jersey Fresh vegetables from the Garden State at City Hall Plaza Village from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Tuesday. For more info call 201-286-0938.

### THRU AUGUST 30

CRANFORD—Living County College is offering "Fantastic Fridays," a set of one-day computer training seminars from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more info call 908-706-7000.

NEWARK—The Newark Department of Health and Human Services will participate in the "SuApp" Food Program. For more info call 201-733-7608.

Calendar listings should be sent two weeks in advance to ensure publication

# NATION

## Alexis Herman, the President's right hand woman

### National News at a Glance

#### CHURCH BURNING CONTROVERSY CONTINUES

Building that was part of a church under construction in Louisiana caught fire in an early morning blaze at NNPA deadline. Authorities reportedly are calling it arson, but have not yet linked it with the rash of black church burnings across the South. The total of black church fires is now nearing 41. Federal investigators have said that they fear the situation is not caused by a conspiracy, but by cores of random instances of racial hatred. "The prospect of fire is a chilling thing," Assistant Attorney General Deval L. Patrick told the Associated Press. "But the prospect that there are sporadic acts of racism is even worse." Meanwhile, a Richmond, Va. insurance company that canceled the policy of a black church victimized by arson in the state has apologized, telling the AP it "didn't react properly." The wire service reported that the company, Travelers-Aetna Property and Casualty, had originally defended its position. And the Ku Klux Klan of Greenville, TX, had a rally recently condemning the church burnings. They chose the date not enough attention had been paid to white church burnings that have also happened during the same period of time.

—WASHINGTON, DC

#### JURY FINDS PALE IN 1985 MOVE HEADQUARTERS

A federal jury recently found the city of Philadelphia used excessive force in quelling a confrontation with MOVE with bombs, leaving the group \$1.5 million in damages. The verdict may end the 11-year controversy that erupted back in 1985, when city police bombed MOVE's barricaded headquarters, leaving 11 members killed and a city block devastated. The jury had deliberated for nine days, in a symbolic gesture, the jury also ordered former top officials in the police and fire departments to pay MOVE \$1 per week for 11 years. MOVE, a radical back-to-nature group, was known in Philadelphia for its loud and violent confrontations with police.

—PHILADELPHIA, PA.

#### BIG GRANT TO RECEIVE AWARD FOR SHOW

Simply by now you have heard of Bob Grant. He's the white New York City talk radio host who has called blacks "scumbags" on the air. He was recently fired from WABC-AM for making what station management said were inappropriate remarks about the late actor. For Brown, he was promptly hired at WOR-AM, another New York talk station. It seems that keeping Grant on the air is not enough; now, the National Association of Public Talk Show Hosts has decided to honor him. The association has also decided to honor fellow talkmeister Alan Bershwitz, who was fired from WABC for calling Grant a racist, and Walt Disney CEO Michael Eisner for firing Grant. Why? The Associated Press said the association decided to honor the three "because they had the right to take the positions they took."

—NEW YORK, NY.

#### KING'S 'DREAM' TARNISHED IN ATLANTA AS OLYMPICS NEAR, SAYS REPORT

With Atlanta busily preparing for the 1996 Olympic Games, it black communities there will surely display themselves, as they have in the past, as "The Black Mecca." And activists like Hosea Williams, a former aide to Martin Luther King in the 1960s, will probably point out its contradictions, such as the growing gap it has between rich and poor blacks. "Atlanta is philly!" he told the IPS wire service. "It has betrayed the black struggle. It's pseudo. It's false." Says the wire service: "The blacks that have become rich will not even return when the Olympics come to town, but the poor amongst the city's black population complains they will remain poor."—ATLANTA, GA.

WASHINGTON, DC (NNPA)—Alexis Herman knows that working at the White House as a senior advisor to the President is no bowl of cherries. She can take the heat, the intense pressures, the avalanche of daily demands, the 12-hour work days, and the personal sacrifices of working at the White House.

Although working at the White House and having such a broad responsibility is difficult, and draining for Herman, it is also challenging, exciting, fulfilling, and historic. Alexis, as everyone calls her, more than carries her weight in serving as Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Public Liaison.

However, she has just gone through one of the most tragic and traumatic periods in her professional career in Washington. Ron Brown, the late Secretary of Commerce, was her closest political associate, her mentor, advisor, firm supporter and loyal friend. And now that he is gone, there is the void that must be filled.

Those who know and work with Herman express amazement at how she

can function so effectively under extremely difficult circumstances, keep an "incredibly busy" daily schedule, deal with so many problems and crises, endure so much pressure, and always maintain her composure and pleasant disposition.

In 1989, when Brown became the first African American to be elected chairman of a major American political party, the Democratic National Committee (DNC), one of his first goals was to develop a highly competent and effective administrative staff.

He recruited Herman and named her Chief of Staff, the first woman to hold that position in a national party. And later, Deputy Chair of the DNC. This was possible because of her experience of working in the Carter administration and her work with Ron Brown.

In 1991, DNC Chairman Brown made more history by naming Herman Chief Executive Officer of the 1992 DNC where she was responsible for the overall strategic management and production of the convention, held in New York City. This convention was

described by many as one of the most successful and exciting conventions in recent decades.

It provided the impetus for the election of Bill Clinton as President. Herman was the first African American to serve as a Democratic convention CEO. She is also the first African American woman to serve as assistant to the President of the Dorothy I. Height Leadership Award.

A native of Mobile, Alabama, Herman served in the administration of President Jimmy Carter as director of the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor. She also served as the White House representative to the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development on the role of women in the economy in Paris, France.

Herman also is a major White House advisor and strategist on African-American issues. Recently, she helped arrange a \$2 million advertising program for African American newspapers and other media. She is also an active member of the National Council on Negro Women and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



Alexis Herman (r), Assistant to the President and Director, White House Office of Public Liaison, confers with President Bill Clinton as they leave the White House for a special ceremony in the White House Rose Garden.

## NMBC/South African fellowship program established

NEW YORK—As a result of the National Minority Business Council's (NMBC) recent successful trade mission to Johannesburg, South Africa, in March, the organization has established the NMBC/South Africa Fellowship Program, to provide opportunities for South African business entrepreneurs and journalists to visit the United States and further their international business and professional growth.

The Fellowship is made possible

with a contribution of \$5,000 from Harold Span, an NMBC member and president of Sisco Inc., a Charlotte, NC, company that manufactures and sells advertising and promotional materials.

Span was one of the 15 participants in the NMBC's South African mission.

The program is dedicated to the memory of the late Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, and will begin this fall. It will be administered by the

NMBC International Trade Program under the management of Kathryn Leary, the NMBC/TP's managing director and NMBC president and CEO, John F. Robinson.

Using a selection process based on essays written by the applicants on the theme "How Would You Use Your Experience As An NMBC International Trade Program South Africa Fellow To Contribute To The Republic of South Africa?" a finalist will be chosen to visit New York for a mini-

um of two weeks as the guest of the NMBC.

While here, the individual will visit U.S. businesses and media establishments, and attend seminars and functions that may be taking place during the course of the visit.

South African organizations, with which the NMBC has established contacts, will assist in the selection process.

"What this fellowship program has done is to affirm an ongoing rela-

tionship between South Africa and the NMBC, and eventually we hope to have it going both ways, with someone from here on fellowship in South Africa," said Robinson.

The NMBC will be leading another trade mission to South Africa later this year, from October 11-20. This mission will also be dedicated to the memory of the Ron Brown. For further information on the trade mission please call the NMBC at 212-573-2385.

### Time Warner shows students importance of diversity

WASHINGTON, DC—Time Warner Inc. recently launched a program with the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) which is designed to promote greater understanding of, and appreciation for the cultural, racial and ethnic diversity that exists among students in the public school system.

Several hundred DCPS students participated in the six-part program entitled, *It's US: A Celebration of Who We Are in American Today*. DCPS officials applauded Time Warner for launching the nationwide program in the country's capital, with Maurice R. Sykes, Deputy Superintendent of DC Public Schools stating, "Our students, who represent many different countries, gained so much from the various activities, the importance of learning about other races and cultures, understanding and then appreciating our differences."

Components of the program included:

- (1) an instructional module on diversity conducted by English and Social Studies classes;
- (2) a workshop for more than 100 teachers;
- (3) students forums, including a day of dialogue and a town hall meeting on Saturday attended by more than 500 students;
- (4) an essay contest in which students wrote on four questions related to the diversity theme;
- (5) photo exhibitions on diversity at DC Public Libraries.

According to Toni Fay, Time Warner's Vice President for Community Relations, "Time Warner is committed to using its resources to bring to the attention of our young people that the greatness of America is due to its diversity—a diversity of race, ethnic origin, culture and religion that students in the DC Public Schools represent and of which they should be proud."

Fay added that Time Warner's realization "is a valuable educational lesson which may have significant impact on the future generations of leadership in our country." Students, DC, agreed that the diversity project was an excellent idea. Many believe that diversity is beneficial to society and pointed out the consequences of ignoring diversity.

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Thursday, July 18, at the Sheraton Woodbridge, Iselin, NJ.

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## EDITORIAL

### Fourth of July still tarnished for many

As this nation's founding fathers sat down to free the people from the oppressive European control, they collaborated creating a mission statement of the dreams, hopes and ideals of freedom for all. The Declaration of Independence, despite the supreme efforts of Thomas Jefferson, carried many falsehoods setting off the United States of America's first documented act of unequal and alienable acts.

Today in 1996, over 220 years since that first wrong, America is still committing unjust acts against the "minority" people of this nation. Race, age, sex, religious or sexual preferences are the many undeniable reasons why people are discriminated against. Yet, no one can deny that in this so-called great land of ours that race is the largest one.

From Native Americans to African Americans, from Puerto Ricans to Asian Americans, people all over this nation are discriminated against because they look different and come from a different background than those descendants of the founding fathers.

Too many forget that their ancestors fought for—freedom against persecution and unjust treatment. Yet, looking back as we prepare to celebrate this Fourth of July, it appears they forgot too, creating what they despised most.

Knowing and learning this is of the utmost importance for the people and leaders of this country, if it is truly ever desired for us to be a united nation. If the statement, "We hold these truths to be self-evident: That all men are created equal," is truth, then we must all endeavor to see that so and in doing so maybe re-thinking and re-writing the Declaration of Independence.

### Letters to the Editor

#### Creating racism: psychiatry's betrayal

Dear editor:

More than 70,000 copies of the booklet, *Creating Racism: Psychiatry's Betrayal* have been distributed around the world in the past year. However, the demand for this publication has been so great that we at the Citizens Commission on Human Rights have reprinted a further quarter of a million copies.

The booklet was initially written because wherever one looks today, every facet of modern life appears to be in some degree of deterioration. And so-called ethnic cultures are subject to some of the more pronounced assaults. Racism continues and looks like *The Bell Curve*, and psychological studies that claim minorities have a genetic disposition to violence serve to inflame it.

There is no denying its effects: poverty, ruined youth, turmoil and even genocide. The pernicious source of this may not be obvious to the observer. Our research has shown that psychiatry and its racist, eugenic studies have helped spawn Apartheid, oppression of African Americans, and caused education and other cultural advances to be denied to black communities. The results have been catastrophic.

To further obscure this influence, studies funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) have placed African Americans under the microscope to try and determine "what this has happened!" These have then formed the basis of social programs they have been implemented into African-American neighborhoods to their further detriment. You are probably already aware of NIMH's "Violence Initiative" which was supposed to have "died" several years ago when psychiatrist Frederick Goodwin equated inner city youth with aggressive, over-sexed monkeys in a jungle. The initiative has not ended—it has simply changed its name.

If we work diligently to weed out psychiatry's falsehoods—which have influenced governments, schools and social services—and provide real education, justice, asylum, and rehabilitation, we can help end racism. We can help bring about cultural improvement, a better hope for civilization and freedom from ignorance.

Jan Eastgate  
International President  
Citizens Commission on Human Rights International

## Thank you New Jersey

Dear Editor,

The Salvation Army of New Jersey would like to recognize and thank the many generous volunteers who gave of their time and themselves to help with our relief efforts for the flood victims in Woodbridge. Special thanks goes to the Editor Job Corp for joining our team of volunteers.

The Salvation Army was on the scene of the disaster for over 30 hours serving over eighteen thousand meals, snacks, and hot and cold drinks to the hundreds of firefighters, police officers, and emergency workers.

Congratulations are in order to the firefighters and other emergency workers for a job well done! If not for their expertise and cooperative effort, this extremely dangerous fire could have been devastatingly worse.

Many local businesses were also very generous in donating goods and services to help us meet this need. In particular the Salvation Army would like to recognize the following companies that donated food in mass quantities: Wakeman Food Corporation (Shop-Rite), Edison; Haagen-Dazs, Edison; Entenmann's, Edison and McDonald's.

Thank you and God bless you for your generosity and kindness!

Sincerely,  
Major Joseph DeMott  
State Commander Salvation Army

## Fletcher

tion as an effective tool for economic development.

Paul Harris, Jr., an assistant professor at Rowan County College and former Harris, of Camden College, and Jerome Harris, of Camden College, are the authors of the report.

## CITY NEWS

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Have a safe  
and happy  
4th of July

by John W. Heffernan

The horrifying extent of the massacres in Rwanda created an international outcry for punishment of the perpetrators of the genocide. One result of that outcry was the establishment of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

The first trial will begin in September in Arusha, Tanzania. However, the world has yet to focus on this historic event and accord this Tribunal the attention it demands. The following column explains why it is necessary for Americans to pay attention to the situation in Rwanda.

They all died near the end of the worst of it. It wasn't until June of 1994 that her brothers came to kill them.

Beatrice had married Bernard in 1976, but up until now, it hadn't mattered that he was a Tutsi and she a Hutu.

Beatrice Nyiransenge, her husband Bernard Ntawuhungu, and their seven children fled the genocide that was unleashed in Rwanda after the president's plane was shot down, giving the majority Hutus the necessary excuse to begin the killings. For two months, the family hid at her uncle's home until her brothers tracked them down and axed Bernard to death as Beatrice and her children watched. To assure that all the "snakes" were eradicated, they murdered five of her seven children as she looked on.

Thirty-eight-year-old Beatrice's story, as told to African Rights, a British human rights organization, is little different from untold numbers of others that resulted from the period of genocidal fury that gripped the tiny central African nation of Rwanda during those 100 days in 1994.

Her husband and children were six among the more than 600,000 people executed in a frenzy of death where family set upon family, doctor upon patient, priest upon penitent. Unlike so many of the victims of the genocide however, Beatrice has accused those responsible.

We all witnessed what happened. During that summer of 1994 as we caught televised glimpses of the scores of thousands of bodies that floated, one, a minute, down the Kagera River to wash up and not along the shores of Lake Victoria, we were momentarily, vaguely unsettled. But this is what happens in Africa, we rationalize. Tragic, but just a part of the historical continuum in a part of the world about which we know little and care less.

Until now, the names of people lost were not recorded nor were their lives marked. Until now, the best we could hope for was that the international community somehow would rally to help stop the slaughter. And until now, that seemed sufficient.

But, as the world watched the events unfold in Rwanda and Yugoslavia, something changed. Maybe it was the very idea of equal opportunity for the living victims of yet another twentieth century genocide emerging skeletons from the Dachaui and Treblinkas of Bosnia.

by Rev. Jesse Jackson

We have witnessed the return of the white supremacists, sneaking in by night to burn the churches of our people. We have watched the mean-spirited maneuvers of the white suit crowd, the Gingrich Congress and many of our state legislatures, as they try day after day to wipe out a half-century of social progress.

Recently, we saw the return of the black robes crowd, with, each decision, roll back a little more of Dr. King's legacy.

This time, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down majority-minority Congressional districts in North Carolina and Texas, in their continuing effort to eliminate black and brown leadership from the most diverse, most representative U.S. Congress in the history of this nation.

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We have criticized the Supreme

Court's attack on majority-minority districts many times in the past. This latest decision is just one more blow to the very idea of equal opportunity in American politics.

One of the cornerstones of Dr. King's legacy is the Voting Rights Act of 1965, won by the marchers on the March to Selma. However, the Supreme Court has now removed much of the meaning from the Voting Rights Act. With its 5-4 vote, the black robes crowd threatens to reduce the black vote to the handful of votes that hang by half, while greatly limiting the opportunities for African Americans and Latinos to win state legislative, city, county, and county commission seats in the future.

The Supreme Court had already acted to alter the districts—and injure the careers—of African-American U.S. Representatives Cynthia McKinney (GA), Sanford Bishop (GA), Cleo Fields

(LA), and Corrine Brown (FL). The Court's latest decision adds Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX), Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX), Eric Claydon (NC), and Mel Watt (NC) to the endangered list. These African Americans and Hispanics in Congress may yet be jeopardized in the near future by the Court's redistricting rulings. These leaders need our help.

Ironically, these African Americans, now threatened by redistricting, represent more diverse districts than all but a handful of others. In Congress—yet, they are the ones the Court singled out in their drive to limit equal opportunity.

The Supreme Court is willing to accept incumbency, geographic boundaries, industry and political party registration as legitimate factors in redistricting. However, despite legislative and judicial findings of long-term practices of racial exclusion—and

the key here is resistance and grassroots mobilization. We need to support efforts like those of ACORN and the AFL-CIO to register several million new voters from low to middle income households.

We need to utilize our schools, churches, labor union halls to conduct political education campaigns. One primary group that must be reached are African-American and Latino single mothers with children. These are the chief targets and victims

of the repulsive "Contract With America."

But in the last analysis, success in politics is based to a great degree on "vision." If you had the power, what would you do with it? Gingrich and company are very clear about that: they intend to do it, once they dominate all branches of the government. Clinton oscillates between pragmatism and opportunism. What blacks, labor, Latinos, feminists, and a spo-

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Or perhaps it was those of the children of Rwanda, the ones lucky enough to have survived the savage ad hoc executions of their parents. Or maybe it was simply the recognition here at the end of the millennium that, at long last, perhaps we can do something.

Today, the world is conducting an unprecedented experiment in international justice. In a small courtroom in Holland, a Bosnian Serb stands accused of committing horrific crimes against his own countrymen. In September, a similar court will convene in Arusha, Tanzania, to begin hearing the evidence from courageous people like Beatrice against those accused of the unimaginable.

The very existence of this tribunal sends a message to the people of Africa that there is hope for redress, on an international basis, for individuals victimized by regimes bent on eradicating people because of their ethnicity, religion or political orientation. Justice, always a promise in Africa, has achieved a foothold. However, the world has yet to accord this tribunal the attention it demands.

For whatever reason, its work and even its very existence has not captured the attention of the international community in the way the Yugoslavian War Crimes Tribunal has. And this failure of the western world to focus on these historic events taking place in Africa only serves to underscore what many believe to be our attitudes about fundamental rights in other places, that for Africa, the rule of law

Peace has not yet come to Rwanda. The killings and the intimidation have, if a lesser extent. But because this time we have backed our resolution of "never again" with corporate deeds and historic action, we may just change the world. This time, there is someone to speak for Beatrice Nyiransenge.

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and the search for justice is less important than it is for Europeans.

The world needs to know that the 400 suspected leaders of the Rwandan genocide, virtually none in custody. The world needs to know that the decimated Rwandan legation has been overwhelmed by its need to bring to trial the more than 7,000 people jamming its jails who an accused of participating in the genocide. But the world also needs to know that Africa is a place where peace and justice can be achieved through the rule of law.

The whole of history shows that the dead are always forgotten and that justice is what the victors choose to be. Perhaps we have finally learned something new. The work this Tribunal is undertaking on behalf of the victims must be affirmed and amplified, for to fail or to refuse to act on these latest mind, numbing crimes is simply not an option.

If the world succeeds here, maybe the hand of the next warlord or dictator will be stayed by the knowledge that we are watching and that this time, there will be consequences.

Peace has not yet come to Rwanda. The killings and the intimidation have, if a lesser extent. But because this time we have backed our resolution of "never again" with corporate deeds and historic action, we may just change the world. This time, there is someone to speak for Beatrice Nyiransenge.

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John W. Heffernan is chief operating officer of

# Kids Kalendar

**THRU DECEMBER 15**  
**NEWARK**—The New Jersey Historical Society showcases The Kids Bridge exhibition at 230 Broadway. For more info call 201-483-3999.

**THRU JULY 19**  
**MONTCLAIR**—Montclair State University's summer camp for academically gifted students in grades 6-10. Camp provides mornings of math and science classes, afternoons of cultural and recreational activities, and open activities period at the end of the day. For more info call 201-655-4260/4140.

**JULY 2 THRU AUGUST 16**  
**NEWARK**—The Newark Museum presents programs for children ages 6 thru 14. For more info call 201-596-6615.

**JULY 7 THRU 12**  
**BEEMERVILLE**—New Jersey 4-H sleepover camp for children in grades 3-11. Five camp sessions offered that includes swimming, boating, in-line skating, horseback riding, shooting sports, crafts and more. For more info call 875-4715.

**JULY 8 THRU AUGUST 16**  
**PLAINFIELD**—Plainfield Kumon and Little Bytes will hold summer programs for youth ages 5 to 14. For more info call 908-756-0006.

**JULY 9 THRU 30**  
**NEW BRUNSWICK**—Crossroads Theatre Company announces its summer theatre workshop for children ages 11 thru 13. For more info call Ann Gowan at 908-249-5551, ext 41.

**TUESDAY, JULY 15**  
**RAHWAY**—Auditions will be held for Missoula Children's Theatre production of Cinderella at 12 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center.

**JULY 15 THRU 19**  
**CRANFORD**—Union County College's Cranford Campus will sponsor "Space Station UCC," a special camp for kids 10 to 12. For more info call Ann Gowan at 908-709-7600.

**Calendar listings should be sent two weeks in advance to ensure publication**

## Take the challenge—go for the gold

**NEWARK**—As part of its Summer Fun activities, The Newark Public Library has launched its annual "Summer Reading Challenge" for children in grades pre-K through 8. This year's theme is *Reach For A Book, Go For The Gold*.

The program encourages children to include the adventure of reading in their activities while rewarding their efforts with fun events and a step-system of prizes. This year's program is currently under way and will run until August 16. For additional information about the Summer Fun programs, visit or call the main library at 733-7797 or any of the branch libraries.

## Summer programs offered at Plainfield Kumon

**PLAINFIELD**—Prepare your child now for the future with Plainfield Kumon and Little Bytes' summer program, an exciting experience of Kumon math and reading, computer training, karate, African-American studies and creative writing.

The program runs from July 8 through August 16, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. The six weeks provide a mix of learning and fun, and are packaged

so that students may choose to take Kumon, computer training, karate or African-American studies only. Participants also may choose 1 to 6 weeks of any combination.

Plainfield Kumon coordinates and offers Kumon; Little Bytes, a computer resource for children, provides computer training. Michael Washington, director of the Coalition of Martial Arts Operatives will conduct martial arts training and Hasan Salim, of Black Gold, will instruct the African-American studies.

The program will be held at Plainfield Kumon's new location, The Armory, 1201 East Seventh Street, in Plainfield. The registration fee is \$18 and tuition is \$125 per week.

Parents interested in finding out more about this program may call 908-756-0006.

## East Orange student among UNCF scholars



East Orange High School senior LaRaye Brown, (4th from r) is among 19 students who received college scholarships from Toyota and UNCF to attend Historically Black Colleges or Universities. Pictured (l to r) are Virgil Eton, UNCF senior executive VP and COO; Natasha Curry, Bethune-Cookman College; Sebastian Jackson, Morehouse College; Yvette Batiz, Xavier University; Ronald Frazier, Morehouse College; Amber Lewis, Bethune-Cookman College; John Vance, Morehouse College; Bryanne Brown, Xavier University; John Holland, Tuskegee University; Rebecca Pittman, Xavier University; Brian Franklin, Morehouse College; Yannara Combs, Xavier University; Pamela Walton, Bethune-Cookman College; senior; Nakia Clements, Rachel Kirby; Alexandria Johnson; Nekia Staley; LaRaye Brown, Spelman College; Marcus Walker, Tuskegee University; Douglas West, Toyota group VP of export and logistics operations and Brian Seaton, Tuskegee University.

# Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity honors high school students

by Jeffrey Greene



Pictured (l to r) are Jeff Greene, director of education Zeta Epsilon Lambda Chapter, scholarship recipients Jarrett Mario, Gregory Davis, Ibrahim Abdullah, Nakia Shomo, Lyndel Sherrin, Alpha Phi Alpha member Robert Scott, Ernest Minfield, Martin Scott, Nkomo Hennings and Zeta Epsilon Scholarship Chairman Enoch Peters.

3.0 GPA or above or those who ranked in the top 20 percent of their senior class.

The Alpha Phi Alpha Scholar Athlete Scholarship award was bestowed upon Nkomo Hennings for his achievements in track & field while maintaining academic excellence.

Jarrett Mario, of Lakewood High School, and Robert Scott, of Monmouth Regional High School, received the Alpha Phi Alpha Award. This award is given to students with a

more than \$125,000 in scholarships to students over the past 12 years.

One of the continuous goals of the chapter is to address the educational and financial needs of the area minority students who are engaged in post secondary educational pursuits.

Zeta Epsilon Lambda also is involved with various charities such as the United Negro College Fund, the March of Dimes, and Boy Scouts of America.

## Ashleigh Allen takes 1st place in poster contest



**EAST ORANGE**—Ashleigh Allen, a kindergarten student at Ashland School poses with East Orange postmaster Henry Smiley, (l) and Mayor Cardell Cooper after winning first prize in her grade category, a plaque and her Postal teddy bear for her poster in the 1996 East Orange Seventh Annual Poster contest.

## Dance the summer away

**PLAINFIELD**—The B.U.P.C. Community Center Complex and the Plainfield Division of Recreation are offering a six-week summer dance instruction program at the Complex. Classes will be offered each Saturday morning beginning July 6.

Children, ages three and up can be enrolled for creative movement, combination ballet/tap class, or ballet. The cost for the summer is \$45. Registration will take place July 1 through 6 at the Complex located at 403 W. 7th St. For more info, 908-561-0123.

## This Week in Black History

JULY 3

1871-Joseph H. Douglas, grandson of Frederick Douglass, is born in Washington, DC. A student of the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Douglas became a noted violinist.

1917-Three days of racial riot end in St. Louis, Mo. At least 40 and as many as 200 African Americans are killed and hundreds more are wounded.

1928-Charles Waddell Chestnut, author of *The Conjure Woman* and other works, is awarded the NAACP's Spurgeon Medal.

1942-Jackie Robinson is the first African-American inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, in Cooperstown, N.Y.

JULY 4

1776-The Declaration of Independence is adopted. A copy by Thomas Jefferson denouncing slavery is deleted.

1779-Colonel Arant Stuyler De Poyter notes the presence of Jean Baptiste Pointe Du Sable, "a handsome Negro, well-educated and settled at Eschlagu."

It is the first recorded mention of Du Sable, who settled the area that became Chicago.

1844-Sculptress Wilder Lewis (later Mary Edmonia Lewis) is born in Greenwich, N.Y.

1881-Tuskegee Institute opens in Tuskegee, Ala., with Booker T. Washington as its first president.

1963-Marian Anderson and Ralph Bunche receive the first Medals of Freedom from President John F. Kennedy, the creator of the award.

1991-The National Civil Rights Museum officially opens at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn., the site of the assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

JULY 5

1852-Fredrick Douglass delivers his speech "What to the American Slave is Your Fourth of July?"

1892-Andrew Beard is issued patent number 472,271 for his rotary engine.

1899-Anna Arnold (later Hedgeman) is born in Marshalltown, Ia. Hedgeman will be the first woman to serve in the cabinet of a New York City mayor.

1966-Three nights of rioting in Omaha, Neb., result in the calling out of the National Guard.

JULY 6

1862-Journalist and civil rights advocate Ida B. Wells (later Barnett) is born in Holly Springs, N.C.

1868-Eighty-five African Americans and

70 white representatives meet in Columbia, SC, at the opening of the state's General Assembly. It is the first and last US legislature with an African-American majority.

1957-Ashli Gibson was the women's singles tennis champion at Wimbledon, in England. She will also team up with Darlene Hard to win the doubles championship. She is the first African-American to win at Wimbledon.

Percy Sutton

1971-Jazz great Louis Armstrong dies in New York City.

1996-Jesse Owens is honored on a stamp issued by the U.S. Postal Service.

JULY 7

1781-James Armistead, an American slave, infiltrates the headquarters of General Cornwallis and becomes a servant hired to spy on the Americans. In reality, Armistead is a cunning double agent working for French ally General Lafayette.

1791-The nonseparatist African Church is founded by Richard Allen, Absalom Jones, and Benjamin Rush.

1915-Aunt Margaret Walker is born in Birmingham, Ala.

1975-For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf, a play by 26-year-old Ntozake Shange, premieres in New York City.

JULY 8

1914-Singer William Clarence "Billy" Eckstine is born in Pittsburgh, Pa.

1943-Planned Parenthood Federation of America president Faye Wattleton is born in St. Louis, Mo.

1966-John H. Johnson wins the Spurgeon Medal for his "contributions in the enhancement of the Negro's self-image" through his publications including *Negro Digest*, *Ebony* and *Jet*.

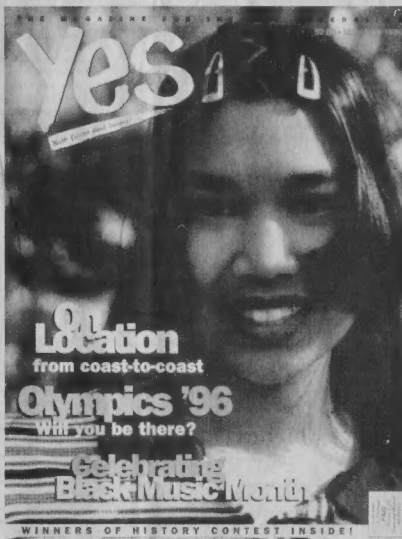
JULY 9

1901-Actor and musician Jester Hairston is born in Bonestead, Pa.

1955-E. Frederick Morrow is appointed an administrative aide to President Dwight D. Eisenhower. He is the first African-American to hold an executive position on a White House staff.

1971-Clergyman and activist Leon H. Sullivan is awarded the NAACP's Spurgeon Medal for his achievements in transmitting "the social gospel into economic progress for his people."

1987-Percy E. Sutton, former New York State legislator, president of the Borough of Manhattan, founder of Inner City Broadcasting and owner of the Apollo Theatre, receives the NAACP's Spurgeon Medal.



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# LIFESTYLE S

## Religious Calendar

### THROUGH AUGUST 17

**NEWARK**—Now showing Silver at Symphony Hall. Shows are Friday 7:30 p.m. and Saturday 2 p.m. For more info and tickets call Viola Sykes at 908-756-5706.

### JULY 7 & 14

**NEW YORK**—"Great Divas of Gospel" a religious music revue about the women who made Gospel big in the music industry. Harlem's Victoria 5 Theater, 335 W. 125th St., call 212-926-0104 for tickets.

### JULY 8 THRU 13

**PLAINFIELD**—Vacation Bible School "Friendship Adventures with Jesus" at First Park Baptist Church from 6 to 8:30 p.m. For more info call 908-756-5322.

### JULY 29 THRU AUGUST 2

**NORTH PLAINFIELD**—Vacation Church School "Friendship Adventures with Jesus" at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church from 9 to 11 a.m. For more info call 908-756-2781.

## Health Calendar

### FRIDAY, JULY 5

**NORTH PLAINFIELD**—American Red Cross blood drive at Trinity Reformed Church from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more info call 908-756-6414.

### MONDAY, JULY 8

**SCOTCH PLAINS**—American Red Cross blood drive at Trinity Reformed Church from 3 to 8:30 p.m. For more info call 908-756-6414.

### THURSDAY, JULY 11

**PLAINFIELD**—American Red Cross blood drive at Rose of Sharon Church from 3 to 8:30 p.m. For more info call 908-756-6414.

### TUESDAY, JULY 16

**PLAINFIELD**—United National Bank Community Education Center and The Plainfield YMCA Urban Women's Center are sponsoring a workshop on substance abuse from 10 a.m. to noon. For more info call 908-756-5000.

## Ford recalls over 7 million vehicles

**CLIFTON**—Ford Motor Company has issued a recall for several of its vehicles due to a faulty ignition switch, which can cause car fires.

"The parts are in stock and we're ready to make the repairs," assures George Stonebridge, service manager at Fette Ford Imports in Clifton. "If you think your vehicle is affected by the recall, just call us with your Vehicle Identification Number."

"We can tell you if your vehicle is subject to the recall and we can go ahead and schedule your repair without waiting for the official letter. The recall repair is free," Stonebridge added.

Recall notices have been sent out as of July. However, concerned owners are already calling the Fette Ford Imports Service Department. Vehicles covered under the recall include: 1988-1990 model: Escort and EXP; 1988-1993 model: Mustang, Tempo,

Topaz, and (built through 9/30/92) Thunderbird/Cougar; 1988-1989 model: Crown Victoria, Grand Marquis and Lincoln Town Car

1988-1991 model: Aerostar; 1988-1991 model: Bronco and F-Series light trucks

Callers have been concerned by news reports that described how a short circuit developed in the ignition switch of some affected vehicles, leading to overheating, smoke and fire in the steering column.

When vehicles are brought in for the recall, the ignition switch will be replaced with a revised design switch. The repair will take approximately one hour.

At the same time, the service technician will perform a free inspection of wiring in the steering column for any aftermarket electrical accessories. If any improper installation is noted

customers will be advised to have the condition corrected. Such correction costs are not part of the free recall repair.

Stonebridge advises owners of recalled vehicles not to delay in scheduling repairs, but also points out that owners need not panic.

"The potential problem is a serious one, and I certainly don't want to minimize it, but the odds of any one vehicle actually experiencing the problem are not high," Stonebridge noted.

Ford is recalling 7.9 million vehicles in this country and 859,000 in Canada that were built with the same type of ignition switch. Reported fires total \$20 or 000/036 of the total number of vehicles.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration head Ricardo Martinez has commended Ford for "stepping forward to do a full safety recall before our investigation was completed."

## Some medications can increase risk of sunburn

**NEWARK**—As summer approaches, the staff of the New Jersey Poison Information and Education System would like to warn users of medications of an increased risk of sunburn.

During the summer months, when the body's exposure to the harmful rays of the sun is highest, millions of Americans are at risk of developing a prescription or non-prescription drug-induced exaggerated sunburn (photosensitivity reaction). This reaction occurs when certain medications, either orally ingested or topically applied, cause this reaction.

There are some medications that cause these reactions at a greater frequency, and caution must be used when taking a drug that can increase the chances of developing a significant burn.

Some of the drugs that require consideration are the tetracycline antibiotics, including tetracycline, doxycycline (Vibramycin), and minocycline (Minocin). Other medications that may promote burning include the nonsteroidal anti-inflama-

tory drugs that can be obtained without prescriptions, including (but not limited to) ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil, etc.), naproxen (Naprosyn, Aleve), and piroxicam (Feldene), and sulfonamide-containing drugs, such as Bactrim and Septra. Finally, a group of diuretics called the thiazide diuretics including chlorothiazide and hydrochlorothiazide have been similarly implicated.

Sunscreens are helpful in providing protection against the sun's harmful rays. Sunscreens that contain only PABA as its active ingredient are insufficient protection to prevent drug-induced sunburns because PABA only blocks one type of the sun's rays, UVB.

Since these reactions can also be caused by UVA rays, a sunscreen containing benzophenones (oxybenzone, dioxybenzone), which give dual UVA and UVB protection, is recommended. Wearing protective clothing and avoiding prolonged exposure to sunlight will add to your protection; however, the exaggerated burn may extend to non-sun exposed

areas.

Whenever a question arises as to which medications may cause you to become more sensitive to the sun or how to effectively protect against them, be sure to consult your health care provider. For further information, the New Jersey Poison Information and Education System is available 24 hours a day to assist you. The number is 800-POISON-1.

## Reduce BAC

### Continued from page 1

Grud also points out that experience has shown that lowering the BAC to .08 reduces alcohol-related traffic crashes and the fatalities and injuries that result from them. Reducing alcohol-related crashes also would save billions of dollars every year in costs to society.

AAA is urging its members to let Governor Whitman and the State Legislature know about the effectiveness of .08 laws in saving lives and taxpayer dollars by contacting their legislators in support of Assembly bill, A-200.

## Be cautious when riding a bicycle

**HOUSTON**—Longer daylight hours and warmer temperatures unfortunately means more bicycle-related injuries and sometimes deaths.

The best precaution is to always wear a helmet when biking. Although helmet compliance is particularly low among teenagers, statistics continue to show a dramatic link between helmet use and reduced risk for injury or death.

The Brain Injury Research Center of Baylor and The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research say helmets should meet industry safety standards and should bear a sticker for ANSI. Snell or ASTM. Choose a light, bright color for better visibility, with a snug fit, but comfortable.

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, bicycle injury and death reveal some recurring patterns:

- Bicyclist deaths are more likely to occur in the summer, and between noon and 9 p.m. Peak time is 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- 34 percent of fatal accidents occur at intersections. Half are on major roads and 38 percent on local roads.
- One-third of bike deaths are among those under age 15. Males are more likely to be killed by a ratio of 7 to 1.
- Bike accidents are twice as likely to occur in urban areas.
- Bicyclist account for nearly 13 percent of all non-motorist traffic deaths.
- Pedestrians account for the majority.
- It's recommended that parents teach their children responsible bicycling. This includes al-

ways riding to the right side of the lane, except for when turning left. If passing a parked car, keep four feet away to avoid opening doors.

Bicyclists should know the rules of the road, hand signals, and how to maintain a bicycle. Reflective materials on the bike and clothing add further safety at dusk or night.

Some states require a white light in front of the bike and a red light or reflector in back. Keep tires properly inflated, brakes in working order, and check the handlebars and wheels for any signs of "wobble."

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# BUSINESS

## Affirmative action threatened by proposals

by Terrence L. Dixon

### Business Calendar

JULY 10 THRU 11

**SECAUCUS**—New York/New Jersey Minority Purchasing Council "Expo '96." Meadowlands Convention Center, call Monica Gray 212-522-7632.

**THURSDAY, JULY 11**

**SCOTCH PLAINS**—How to Survive in Today's Economy Seminar for business owners at 7 p.m. at Park Place Restaurant. For more info call 800-932-0093 or 908-494-4795.

**PLAINFIELD**—United National Bank Community Education Center and Business Owners Institute, Inc. will hold a business clinic from 6 to 8 p.m. For more info call 908-756-5000.

**TUESDAY, JULY 16**

**PHILADELPHIA**—ATA in partnership with the African-American Chamber of Commerce of Philadelphia presents Using Information and Technology to Grow Your Business. For more info call 1-800-446-2766, ext. 3628.

**THURSDAY, JULY 18**

**METUCHEN**—How to Survive in Today's Economy seminar for business owners at 7 p.m. at Cayan Restaurant. For more info call 800-932-0093 or 908-494-4795.

**TUESDAY, JULY 23**

**SCOTCH PLAINS**—How to Survive in Today's Economy seminar for business owners at 7 p.m. at Park Place Restaurant. For more info call 800-932-0093 or 908-494-4795.

**JULY 24 THRU 25**

**NEW YORK**—The Advertising Research Foundation presents the AFR Interactive Media Research Summit II: Bringing Clarity to New Media Research at the New York Hilton. For more info call 212-751-5656.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 31**

**METUCHEN**—How to Survive in Today's Economy Seminar for business owners at 7 p.m. at Cayan Restaurant. For more info call 800-932-0093 or 908-494-4795.

Calendar listings should be sent two weeks in advance to ensure publication

WASHINGTON, DC—The Minority Business Enterprise Legal Defense and Education Fund (MBELDEF) is making efforts to halt the Department of Justice's affirmative action proposals, and, particularly, to stop a moratorium that would discontinue government set-asides for two years.

According to Craig Thomas, Chief of Investigation and Research for MBELDEF, the proposals would mean, "Loss of government contracts, monetary set-asides, and an increase in lay-offs for minority businesses that would eliminate the national unemployment rate."

The two-year moratorium outlined in the proposal states that once minority participation in contracting falls below a certain benchmark, the Department of Justice wants to allow implementation of race-conscious mechanisms in order to increase minority Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB) opportunities. Yet, it bars the

use of set-asides as a tool for a period of two years.

Thomas pointed out that set-asides have been an integral component in addressing barriers faced by minority businesses seeking access to contracting opportunities. When minority firms are denied access to the marketplace, set-asides may be the only effective mechanism for solving discrimination issues.

The Justice Department's proposals would also advocate reform of the certification process for minority SDB programs, impose a system of national and regional benchmarks, and restrict the use of race-conscious mechanisms.

"We agree there needs to be reform," Thomas explained, "but we disagree with many of the proposals being made. The President [Bill Clinton] is compromising minority businesses to gain support from Republicans. Small business has become a scapegoat."

These proposals, albeit the Republican's interest in abolishing

affirmative action since its implementation, were fully conceptualized in 1995 when the Supreme Court delayed revelation of the provisions of the regulations in the case *Adarand Constructors Inc. v. Peña*. In the case, the court held that strict scrutiny applies to federal affirmative action programs where race is used as a factor in procurement decisions. Yet, the Department of Defense's affirmative action mechanisms in federal procurement to civilian agencies were extended two years ago by the Federal Acquisition Streamline Act of 1994.

Other major grievances MBELDEF has with the proposals are:

- Members of designated minority groups who are classified as economically and socially disadvantaged are now required to prove their disadvantage by "clear and convincing" evidence. This standard would be lowered to proof by the preponderance of evidence.
- MBELDEF feels that there is no need to lower the standard of proof.

Because the definition would be more vague, people not considered minority could have access to programs that specifically benefit minority disadvantaged businesses. The organization feels as though it's a "diluted" remedy for those businesses that suffered and continue to suffer from racial discrimination.

- Benchmarks to measure the status and progress of minority SDBs are to be further utilized. The benchmarks would be calculated for each industry on a regional or national basis and each will denote the level of minority participation expected in the marketplace, and the effects of discrimination. The benchmarks will be used to guide decisions about the "nature and duration" of mechanisms to be used for discrimination solutions.
- MBELDEF does support the decision to use this factual data. However, they feel benchmarks should be established based upon a num-

ber of criteria, including not only current numerical availability of minority SDBs, but also the degree of "under-utilization" of minority SDBs in the private sector.

- When minority participation in contracting exceeds an established benchmark, the Justice Department will terminate the use of race-conscious measures.

While MBELDEF does support some mechanisms such as racial-neutral ones, Thomas explains that he doesn't think MBELDEF is being contradictory because the parts of the proposal they do accept are not in accordance with the overall proposal that they adamantly reject.

The organization is aggressively seeking letters of support from the minority business world by a July 22 deadline to eradicate the proposal. Comments should be addressed to Mark Gross, Office of Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, P.O. Box 65808, Washington, DC 20035 or fax 202-307-2839.

## Job outlook improves for New Jersey's '96 college graduates

TRENTON—New Jersey's Class of 1996 college graduates should find the job outlook to be as good or better than that faced by new graduates last year, according to the Labor Department's annual survey of college and university placement officers.

"New Jersey has continued to generate new jobs so that this year's graduates are entering a stronger economic environment than did their counterparts a year ago," said Labor Commissioner Peter J. Calderone.

"One encouraging sign is an increase in New Jersey firms actively recruiting college graduates on campus. Another sign of an improved job market is the return of more large corporations to collegiate recruitment programs and job fairs," Calderone

said.

The Labor Department's evaluation is based on an informal survey conducted in mid-May of placement officers of 15 New Jersey colleges and universities. Most placement officers indicated employer recruiting activity was at least as strong or stronger than it was a year ago.

The estimated level of increase in on-campus interviews varied widely, ranging from two percent to 24 percent, according to the placement officers. The expanded job opportunities were also reflected in higher numbers of student resumes filed with campus career centers.

Those graduates with academic majors in computer sciences, electrical engineering and accounting are

NEW YORK—Pepsi-Cola Company received the NAACP's Corporate Award for its commitment to minority purchasing during the organization's Fair Share Awards Luncheon here. The luncheon was in honor of the fifteenth year of the NAACP's Operation Fair Share Program.

Citing Pepsi's "long-standing commitment to the African-American community," Hazel Dukes, president, New York State Conference of NAACP branches, called attention to the \$900 million the beverage company has spent on goods and services from minority-owned companies since 1982.

Dukes also noted that, late in 1995, Pepsi had signed a five-year, \$75 million contract with Integrated Packaging Corporation, an African-American-owned corrugated box firm in New Brunswick, N.J.

"This is unprecedented," said Dukes. "For these reasons, we are pleased to give Pepsi the NAACP Corporate Award for Minority Business Purchasing."

Accepting the award for Pepsi-Cola was Fred Canady, the beverage company's Director of Minority Business Enterprise Development. Canady said, "While affirmative action may be



Fred Canady (2nd from r), director, Minority Business Enterprise Development, Pepsi-Cola Company, accepts the NAACP's Corporate Award for his company's commitment to minority business purchasing. Joining him at the NAACP's Fair Share Awards Luncheon were (l) Leonard F. Springs II, chairman, special contributions fund, NAACP; Kwesi Mfume, president and CEO, NAACP; and Hazel Dukes, president, New York conference of NAACP branches.

unpopular in some quarters, Pepsi-Cola has benefited tremendously over the years through its partnerships with minority entrepreneurs. It is gratifying

to be recognized for doing something that, in the final analysis, is as beneficial for Pepsi as it is for the minority businesspersons we deal with."

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# AAA launches campaign to combat NJ's highways and airways

FLORHAM PARK—The AAA Clubs of New Jersey have launched a campaign to call attention to the state's and the nation's deteriorating highways and airways and to seek ways to help correct the problem.

The campaign—"Crisis Ahead: America's Ailing Highways and Airways"—is being kicked off simultaneously by AAA in all 50 states and DC, while U.S. highway and airway systems slowly deteriorate.

"The purpose of this campaign is to clearly show our policy makers and opinion leaders that unless urgent steps are taken to better maintain and improve our highways and airways, this country faces a transportation

crisis," said Frederick L. Gruel, president of the New Jersey Automobile Club in Florham Park and council chairman of the AAA Clubs of New Jersey. Gruel said AAA initiated its campaign because it sensed a growing concern by its members and the American public.

In a nationwide AAA public opinion poll of 1,000 adults, 66 percent of those surveyed described the condition of roads in their states as poor to fair and 40 percent said their state's road and bridge maintenance was inadequate or non-existent. In addition, 69 percent of respondents felt that problems with air traffic control systems have caused a rise in flight delays and concerns with air safety.

"Clearly, Americans are worried

about the declining status of a transportation network they've taken for granted," Gruel said.

To support its campaign, AAA released a report on the country's transportation needs and sent President Clinton and each member of Congress a copy and a letter urging them to appropriate the needed funds to help correct the deteriorating state of the country's highways and airways.

In New Jersey, AAA Clubs are working with the Department of Transportation, state legislators and other interest groups to reinforce the importance of investing in the state's transportation network.

According to AAA, the problem is critical. The current backlog of

existing road and bridge needs on major U.S. routes is estimated at \$315 billion. The Federal Highway Administration says it will take an annual capital investment of \$72 billion over the next five years to upgrade roads and bridges.

In New Jersey, 46 percent of the state's National Highway System mileage is in fair to poor condition and 46 percent of the bridges are rated "structurally deficient" or "obsolete." And even with new runways, Newark International Airport will face severe congestion by the year 2002.

Gruel stressed, however, that while New Jersey does have a significant amount of work to do to improve and maintain its highways and bridges, motorists can take heart in knowing that the recent renewal of the Transporta-

tion Trust Fund and dedication of a greater percentage of gas taxes to transportation will aid greatly in this effort.

Included in AAA's Crisis Ahead campaign are six key action steps AAA says Congress must follow:

- Start using all taxes collected from motorists and airline passengers for their intended purpose of maintaining and improving highways and airways
- Stop spending gasoline taxes for non-transportation purposes (for example, 4.3 cents per gallon for deficit reduction)
- Reinvest immediately the airline passenger and cargo tax to ensure safety needs are met
- Take transportation trust funds off

budget to assure their use for transportation only

- Not allow gasoline or airline ticket dollars to sit idle in trust fund accounts while U.S. highway and airway systems slowly deteriorate.
- Develop a long-term, comprehensive plan to address the infrastructure needs of the nation's highways and airways.

The AAA NJ Automobile Club is also urging motorists to help identify roads and bridges in need of repair. The Association also wants to hear from individuals who have encountered problems with the air traffic control systems that affected their travels. To report roadway, bridge and air traffic problems, call AAA at 201-377-72, ext. 291.

## Concert stamped

Continued from page 1

manches which lasted from 4 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

The estimated 10,000-strong crowd seemed to be enjoying some of the Metropolitan area's favorite hip hop acts until the discharging of fire crackers, including the miniature bomb-powered M-80s, began where the concert had ended.

"Everyone became edgy when they heard the fire crackers," explained concert-goer Tyrone Johnson. "If you didn't run, you were doomed. You would have been run over."

Charlene Robinson, a Paterson resi-

dent, who ran when she first heard the fire crackers said, "They sounded just like gun shots to me." Police and the Nation of Islam security managed to keep relative control over the crowd during the initial panic by forcing people within the confines of the barricades and moved them along 125th Street.

Shortly after, a man standing in the crowd near a public phone waved a gun in the air and began firing shots. His action triggered a more frantic flee from concert-goers. Slow runners were pushed out of the way. Barricades were toppled and the unlucky was knocked down and trampled over by hundreds of feet.

When brave people such as hip hop fan

Curtis Davis was able to rescue one of the physically downed victims, it was no easy task. "As I was running, I saw this girl lying on the ground and she was crying and screaming. I felt bad so I pushed people out the way to help her," described Davis. "I thought I was going to be on the ground too."

Police said victims who were hurt were taken to ambulances parked close by or to Harlem Hospital. Earlier in the concert, more than a dozen people had to be treated for heat exhaustion.

The concert itself was a success. Hip hop fans filled the space conceivable on the warm comfortable day. They were on top of phone booths, in tree branches, and

perched on people's shoulders. With the advocating of Hip Hop legend KRS-ONE, more than 1,000 people had registered to vote.

Reggae member Wyclef joined the event and let the crowd ignite with excitement over surprise performances. The crowd maintained a high level of energy when Third Eye and Ladar first opened the show. Then, reggae star Junior Reid wowed the crowd with his hit song *One Blood*.

The crowd grew euphoric over first families of Hip Hop Wu Tang Clan and the Bad Boy family featuring Biggie Smalls, Sean "Puffy" Combs, Total and Junior M.A.F.I.A. The Fugees were the last act and performed megahits *Killing Me Softly*, a song first made famous by Roberta Flack, and Bob Marley's *No Woman, No Cry*.

## Newark schools

Continued from page 1

year.

She outlined five initiatives to be introduced in September which included a full-day kindergarten for five-year-olds, guidance counselors assigned to every elementary school, all centrally located assistant executive superintendents, the opening of Tech Prep, a specialized high school,

and alternative programs in every school cluster.

"I am also more convinced than ever, as we move to change the status quo that it will be no easy task or necessary run. Your partnership and support in the difficult days ahead is critical to our effort..." Dr. Hall concluded.

## Arrive alive

Continued from page 1

Consuming too many hot dogs and hamburgers can make a driver tired. Always rest after eating a big meal.

The summer months also bring out more teenage drivers, as school is out and young adults have more free time on their hands," says O'Hagan. "We advise extra caution to these new drivers and ask them to understand the importance of driving responsibly."

To reinforce its safe driving message, the Tri-State Traffic Safety Partners recently completed a new series of public service announcements aimed at young drivers. The ads, which will air this summer on radio and television, are in both English and Spanish. For further information and other safe driving tips call NHTSA at 914-680-6162.

## Black press

Continued from page 1

who get a little time and before you know it we're behind closed doors speaking for the other folks," Rep. Jackson-Lee said. "Dorothy Leavell is one who presides the views of the organization. I want you to acknowledge that she's not the kind of person who believes in going in the back door, and I promise you we're going to take your message to Washington, DC."

So, even though the NNPA got snubbed by the White House, the last hurrah, belongs to the black president, Dorothy Leavell of the NNPA.

## Soul Almighty

Continued from page 7

national reggae community, offering chat rooms, message boards, and a link to the World Wide Web-based SuperSite ([www.reggae-superite.com](http://www.reggae-superite.com)) to retrieve information not included on *Soul Almighty*.

The Web-based SuperSite created by Earth Channel Communications LLC, contains editorial content from the renowned worldbeat music magazine, *The Beat*, listings of touring reggae artists, and a virtual shopping mall offering rare albums to handcrafted Jamaican items.

Universally renowned as the reggae pioneer who first brought the

uniquely syncopated rhythms and politically conscious music of Jamaica to international attention, Marley's status has grown to legendary proportions since his death in 1981. His music has been recorded and/or lauded by such stellar musicians as Stevie Wonder, Eric Clapton, Keith Richards, Paul Simon, Annie Lennox and Johnny Nash.

Marley's posthumous record sales number over ten million, with his greatest hits collection, *Legend*, shipping over five million copies and holding the record for continuous weeks at the top of Billboard's Pop Catalog Albums Chart (remaining on the chart to this day).

## Job outlook

Continued from page 8

finding the strongest demand," Calderson said. "And many graduates with top grades in technical fields had already accepted job offers by January."

Despite the rise in campus recruiting activity, competition remains strong among qualified graduates, the survey revealed. Acceptance of employment did not necessarily reflect a graduate's first career choice. Some institutions also noted an increase in the number of students opting to work for nonprofit organizations, such as the Peace Corps.

## At stake

Continued from page 4

trum of liberal interests must articulate its own vision, a progressive "Contract" with multicultural America.

This political discussion between various groups could foster a new public policy agenda to Clinton's left. By supporting referenda increasing the minimum wage, by fighting for health care reform, and other progressive measures, we can construct the basis for a clear alternative to both Clinton and his reactionary Republican opponents.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies, Columbia University, New York City.

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